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LETTER DATED 2 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

In the early hours of 29 September 1997, two heavily-armed groups belonging to an Iranian terrorist organization based in Iraq crossed international borders and infiltrated the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Iraq.

One group began its offensive operation from Jelola base in Iraqi territory, moving forward through the Iraqi city of Khaneqein, crossed the international border and took up a position near the Iranian city of Ghasr-e-Shirin. At the same time the second terrorist group began its offensive operation from Kut base in Iraqi territory, moving forward through the Iraqi city of Hisan, crossed the international border and took up a position near the Iranian city of Mehran.

In an immediate response to the these attacks by heavily-armed terrorist groups against Iranian territory, and in exercise of the inherent right of self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran took a limited and proportionate measure against the invading terrorists and the two bases in Iraq from which they had planned, mobilized and initiated their armed cross-border attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This limited defensive measure by the Iranian air force began at 0700 on 29 September 1997 and concluded shortly thereafter. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that this defensive operation was solely aimed at the terrorists and their bases and was not intended against the Republic of Iraq.

The cross-border attacks from Iraq against the Islamic Republic of Iran by organized subversive teams, such as the above-mentioned terrorist operations, are not incidental or infrequent, and have recently increased significantly. Based on public admission of the terrorist organization on 31 August 1997, they have carried out 294 such cross-border attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the preceding seven months. They have taken a human and material toll

on Iranian border towns. It is regrettable that these attacks have been organized in collaboration with the military and intelligence establishments of Iraq in terms of planning, logistics, financing and even escorting terrorist infiltrators to the Iranian border.

While reiterating its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran underlines that such behaviour on the part of the Government of Iraq in helping or allowing its territory to be used for launching subversive activities against Iranian territory is unacceptable, and entails international responsibility.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.